

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 12 through 14, 16, and 27 through 37 are pending, with Claims 12, 27, 30, 32, and 35 being independent.

Claims 12 through 26 were variously rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 4, 7 through 12, and 19 through 27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,169 (Azusawa, et al.), taken alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,561,498 (Sekine, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the filing herewith of a Terminal Disclaimer.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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